

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings, which includes Figures 1-4, replaces the original sheet including Figures 1-4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (Figures 1-4)

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-14 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Claims 1-2 and 4-14 are amended. Claim 3 is cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Specification

The specification is objected to because the title is not descriptive. By this Amendment, the title has been amended to be more descriptive. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Drawings

New drawings have been submitted in response to the Examiner's objection in order to comply with CFR 1.121(d). Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Claim Objections

Claims 2-14 are objected to as being of improper dependent form. By this Amendment, Applicants have placed claims 2-14 in proper dependent form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 2-14 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 - *Schultz*

Claims 1-2 and 8-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,617,511 ("Schultz"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a semiconductor relay system including “a functional module configured for load circuit monitoring.” Accordingly, the Examiner’s assertion that the functional module is given no patentable weight because it is not positively recited is believed overcome. Furthermore, because independent claim 1 has been amended to positively recite the functional module of cancelled claim 3, and the Examiner acknowledges that Schultz does not recite the specific functions recited in claim 3 (see Page 5, Point 8 of the Office Action mailed June 22, 2007), Applicant’s submit that independent claim 1 sufficiently distinguishes over Schultz. The switch and outlet functions taught in Schultz are not configured for load circuit monitoring, as recited in independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 is allowable over Schultz, and dependent claims 2 and 8-12 are likewise allowable over Schultz for at least their dependence from an allowable base clam.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection of claims 1-2 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Schultz

Claims 3-7 and 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schultz. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 is allowable over Schultz. Thus, dependent claims 4-7 and 13-14 are likewise allowable over Schultz, at least for their dependence from an allowable base claim.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection of claims 3-7 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

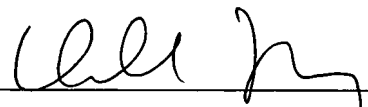
In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
HARNES, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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